AUGUST
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TALES OF VOODOO

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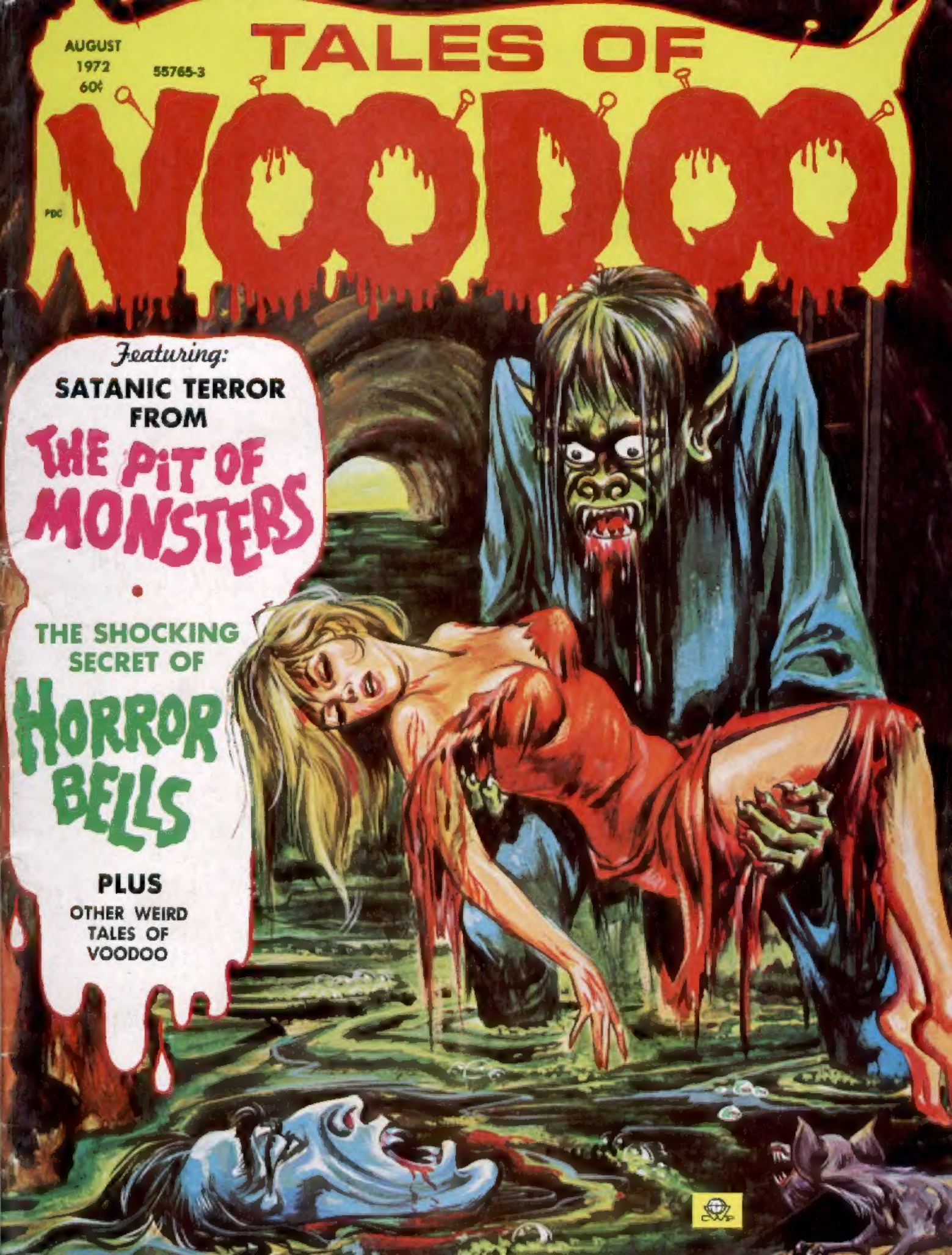

Featuring:

SATANIC TERROR FROM

THE PIT OF MONSTERS

•

THE SHOCKING SECRET OF

HORROR BELLS

PLUS

OTHER WEIRD TALES OF VOODOO

IS YOUR HAIR GROWING OR GOING?

Stand in front of a mirror. Take a long hard look at the top of your head. Do you have as much hair as one year ago? Do you see any new hair growth?

If your answer is no, it is important that you take steps today to save the hair you now have. If you act now, you may be able to reverse the trend on your head. You may be able to grow new hair faster than it is falling out. Doesn't that make sense to you? Wouldn't you like to look in the mirror a year from now and see more hair on your head than you see now? Why lose your hair if you don't have to?

CAN YOU SAVE YOUR HAIR?

Every year thousands of men and women go bald — needlessly — because of a scalp infection. This scalp infection is called seborrhea. Doctors say that three germ organisms cause seborrhea: staphyloccocus albus, pityrosporum ovale, and microbacillus. These germs attack the sebacious glands and the hair follicles themselves. If not checked, permament damage is done. The hair follicles atrophy, lose their ability to produce new hairs. The result: premature baldness.

You can easily tell if you are a victim of seborrhea. If you have itchy scalp, dandruff, hair loss, very dry or oily scalp, the chances are that you have seborrhea. Neglect these symptoms and you invite baldness.

Treat your scalp to Ward's Formula. This amazing scalp medicine quickly controls seborrhea and stops the hair loss it causes.

DOUBLE MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

In seconds, Ward's Formula kills the three parasitic germ organisms retarding normal hair growth. This swift germicidal action has been proven in scientific tests by a world-famous testing laboratory (copy of laboratory report sent on request). Ward's removes infectious dandruff, stops scalp itch, brings hair-nourishing blood to the scalp, tends to normalize very dry or oily scalp. In brief Ward's Formula corrects the ugly symptoms of seborrhea, stops the hair loss it causes. Ward's Formula has been tried by more than 550,000 men and women on our famous Double-Your-Money-Back Guarantee. Only 1.9% of these men and women were not helped by Ward's and asked for their double refund. This is truly an amazing performance.

Why not join the men and women who have successfully ended their troubles? Treat your scalp with Ward's Formula. *Try it at our risk.* In only 10 days you must see and feel the marked improvement in your scalp and hair. Your dandruff must be gone. Your scalp itch must stop. Your hair must look thicker, more attractive, and alive. Your excessive hair loss must stop. You must be completely satisfied—in only 10 days—with the improved condition of your scalp and hair, or simply return the unused portion for Double Your Money Back. So why delay? Delay may cost your hair.

H. H. Ward & Co., Inc., 19 West 44 Street, N. Y. 36, N. Y. © 1963

Doctors and hospitals can obtain professional samples of Ward's Formula on written request.

Here's the Proof!

I must admit I didn't have much faith in it, but I hadn't been using Ward's one week before I could see it was helping me. I could feel my hair getting thicker.
E. K., Cleveland, Ohio

Out of all the Hair Experts I went to, I've gotten the most help from one bottle of Ward's Formula.
C. La M., Philadelphia, Pa.

After using Ward's for only 12 days, my hair has stopped falling out.
R. W. C., Cicero, Ill.

I am tickled to death with the results. In just two weeks' time—no dandruff! *W. T. W., Portola, Cal.*

I feel encouraged to say that the infuriating scalp itch which has bothered me for 5 years is now gone.
J. M. K., Columbus, Ohio

Male pattern baldness is the cause of the great majority of cases of baldness and excessive hair loss, for which neither the Ward treatment nor any other treatment is effective.

H. H. Ward & Co., Inc. Dept. 14731
19 West 44 Street, New York, N. Y. 10036

Rush Ward's Formula to me at once. I must be completely satisfied in only 10 days or you GUARANTEE refund of DOUBLE MY MONEY BACK upon return of bottle and unused portion.

Name .....
Address .....
City ..... State ..... Zip .....

☐ Enclosed find $2, send postpaid (check, cash, money order)
☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman $2 plus 76 cents in postal charges (save the 76 cents by enclosing $2)
☐ Send triple size for $5. You save $1.

Canadian, foreign, add 50 cents — No C.O.D.

DOUBLE MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

TALES OF VOODOO

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CARL BURGOS, Editor IRVING FASS, Art Director
EZRA JACKSON, Art Editor

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WHAT IS IT THAT COMES OUT OF THE NIGHT LIKE SOME APPALLING CREATURE OF HELL AND DEVOURS THE BODY AS IT DERANGES THE MIND ?? WHAT IS THIS MONSTROUS CREATION...

The FLESH EATERS!

LATE ONE EVENING, IN THE FARNLEY EXPERIMENTAL LABORATORIES, TWO BACTERIOLOGISTS ARE FEVERISHLY ENGAGED IN STUDYING A **RARE** AND **MALIGNANT** SPECIES OF BACTERIA...

THEY'RE HORRIBLE LITTLE MONSTERS, BARTLETT!!
NONSENSE, MY FRIEND, THEY ARE BEAUTIFUL!

HOW EAGER THEY ARE TO DESTROY WHATEVER LIES IN THEIR PATH!! I AM STRANGELY DRAWN TO THEM!
AND I'M SORRY WE EVER STARTED THIS EXPERIMENT!

I SAY WE SHOULD DESTROY THEM... NOW-- BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!! WHO KNOWS WHAT FOULNESS WE MIGHT HAVE UNLEASHED!
NEVER! I'LL NEVER LET YOU TOUCH THEM! I'LL KILL YOU FIRST!

AS BARTLETT SHOUTS HIS ANGER, THE WORD "KILL" STRIKES HIS TWISTED BRAIN LIKE A FLASH OF LIGHTNING!
WHAT IF FISK SHOULD DIE? THE REWARDS OF OUR DISCOVERY COULD BE MINE ALONE--AND MY CREATURES WOULD BE FREE OF HIS HATRED!!

SEVERAL HOURS LATER, DEATH RISES FROM HIS FESTERING GRAVE, AS BARTLETT PREPARES TO STRIKE WITH VIOLENT FURY!...
UGH-H-H!!! THEY SQUIRM ABOUT LIKE DAMNED SOULS!!
GAZE YOUR LAST UPON THEM! YOUR WORK HERE IS DONE!

WH--?
AND NOW, DIE, MY COLLEAGUE!

GIVE ME THAT KNIFE! YOU'RE INSANE!!
I WON'T LET YOU DESTROY THEM!! I WON'T!!
CRASH!

AS THEY GRAPPLED WIDLY IN THE DARKNESS THEY CRASHED AGAINST THE MICROSCOPE, SENDING THE FETID AND SLIMY MASS OF BACTERIA TOPPLING UPON THEM!...
THE BACTERIA!! YAARGH-H-H!
AAAH-H-H-H!!

IT'S BEGINNING TO SPREAD! WHAT CAN WE D... AAGH-H-H!!
NO! NO!! MMM-B-B-B!

SUDDENLY THE MEN FIND THEMSELVES PROJECTED INTO A FANTASTIC AND UNNATURAL WORLD INHABITED BY LOATHESOME CREATURES!...
WH-WHERE ARE WE? WHAT'S HAPPENED?
LOOK!! THOSE-- MONSTERS!! THEY'RE LIKE GIANT DISTORTIONS OF BACTERIA!!

THEY'RE ENVELOPING US! WHAT CAN WE DO?
RUN! RUN! YAAAAH-H-H!!

WAIT!! WE CREATED THEM AND SO WE ARE THEIR MASTERS!! THEY WILL LISTEN TO ME!!
BUT THEY'RE ALMOST UPON US!

HIS FACE LIT WITH THE GLOW OF MADNESS, BARTLETT ATTEMPTS TO PIERCE THE DIM CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE SPREADING DEMONS!...
LISTEN TO ME!! I GAVE YOU LIFE AND I CAN TAKE IT AWAY! OBEY ME!! I ORDER YOU TO...

KILL HIM!!
NO! NO!!

SWIFTLY, RELENTLESSLY, THE PESTILENT CREATURES DEVOUR THE MAN WHO HELPED TO CREATE THEM!...
WELL DONE, MY FRIENDS, WELL DONE!! YOU SHALL OBEY ME NOW IN EVERYTHING! HA! HA! HA!

THEY ARE TRULY MINE NOW, MINE!! WITH THEM I COULD DESTROY THE EARTH!! YES... YES...

HIS MIND A TWISTED RUIN, BARTLETT TURNS TO THE HORDE OF BACTERIA AND SPEWS OUT HIS POISONOUS THOUGHTS!...
THIS IS MY COMMAND! SPREAD AND GROW UNTIL EVERYTHING IN SIGHT FALLS PREY TO YOUR SLIMY AND GLUTTONOUS HUNGER!!

LIKE SOME DEMON WITH A THOUSAND ARMS, THE MASS OF BACTERIA BEGINS TO SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE LABORATORY GREEDILY CONSUMING EVERYTHING!...

... ONWARD... AND ONWARD!!...

GOOD LORD!! IT'S AS IF THE BUILDING WERE BEING EATEN!!
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES...

NEAR THE SCENE OF SPREADING HORROR, DOCTOR HUGHES OF A NEARBY BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY WATCHES THE SCENE WITH SHOCK AND TERROR!...
IT MUST BE SOME RARE SPECIES OF BACTERIA!
WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING, DOCTOR HUGHES!

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY! WE'VE GOT TO CULTIVATE A SPECIES OF BACTERIA OF AN OPPOSITE TYPE WHICH CAN DESTROY THE OTHER!
THEN LET'S GET AT IT AT ONCE!

IN A FRANTIC RACE WITH DEATH, THE MEN OF SCIENCE LABOR TO PRODUCE THE COUNTER-BACTERIA!
DOCTOR HUGHES-- YOU MUST HURRY! THE SPREADING BACTERIA IS ALMOST TO OUR DOOR!!

FINALLY...
IF THIS DOESN'T WORK, THEN WE'RE ALL DOOMED!
HURRY! HURRY! THERE'S NO TIME!

THE FUTURE OF MANKIND WILL BE DECIDED NOW!

AT THIS MOMENT, THE INSATIBLE FIENDS, LED BY THEIR INSANE MASTER, PAUSE TO STARE AT THE STRANGE FORMS STIRRING IN THE DISTANCE!...
THERE'S SOMETHING COMING TOWARDS US!! THEY LOOK LIKE...NO...

LIKE TWO OPPOSING ARMIES OF REPELLENT DEMONS, THE TWO SPECIES CLASH IN FURIOUS AND DEADLY BATTLE!!...

YOU CAN'T DESTROY THEM--YOU CAN'T!! I CREATED THEM! NO! DON'T!! DON'T!!

AND BACK IN THE WORLD OF MEN, THE PEOPLE WATCH IN AMAZED RELIEF AS THE SPREADING HORROR PROCEEDS TO DISAPPEAR FROM THE SCENE!...
IT'S WORKING!! THE BACTERIA IS BEING KILLED OFF!
WE'VE BEEN SAVED!! SAVED!!

BUT LOOK AT THE HORROR IT HAS LEFT IN IT'S WAKE!
AND WE'LL NEVER KNOW WHO...

WAIT! I COULD HAVE SWORN I HEARD A HUMAN CRY COMING FROM THAT DIRECTION!!

IT SOUNDS LIKE A HUMAN VOICE!! BUT HOW ON EARTH...
DON'T GO NEAR IT! IF IT TOUCHES YOU, YOU'LL DIE!

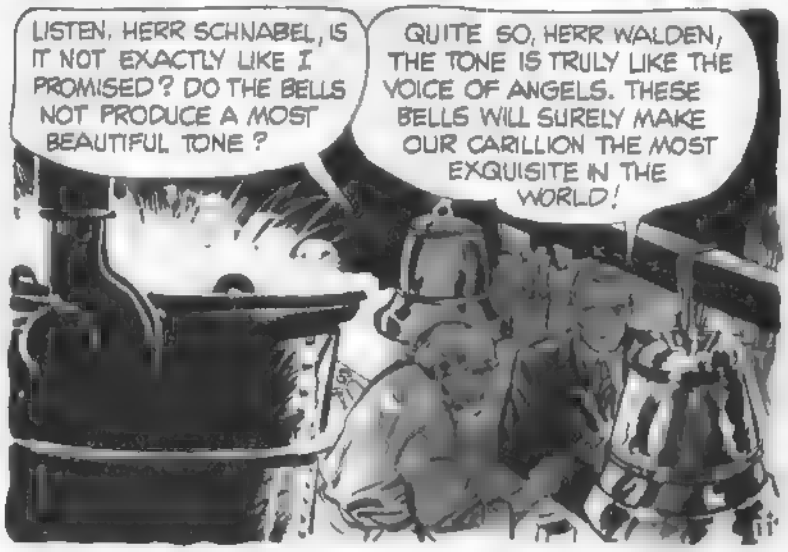
BUT IT'S ONLY A GOLD WATCH!... AND THERE'S AN INSCRIPTION IN IT...
WHAT DOES IT SAY?

AND AS THE LAST OF THE DREADFUL BACTERIA CRUMBLES TO OBLIVION, THE HEROIC DOCTOR'S VOICE ECHOES OVER A SCENE OF WASTE AND DESOLATION!
"AWARDED TO JAMES BARTLETT, FOR HIS INSPIRED SERVICE TO SCIENCE -- AND TO THE WORLD"!...
MARCHIONNE 12

THE HORROR BELL!

MACHADO

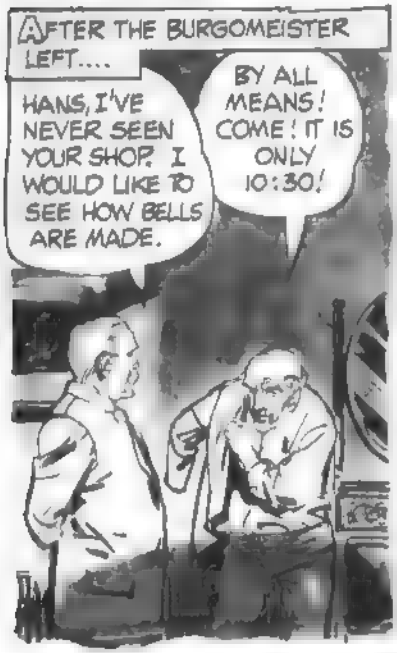
FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD CAME SHOUTS OF ACCLAIM FOR THE SINISTER-LOOKING HUNCHBACK WHOSE BELL-CASTING RESULTED IN MASTERPIECES. THE PEOPLE OF DORFSTADT, WERE PROUD TO CLAIM HIM AS ONE OF THE TOWN'S LEADING CITIZENS, DESPITE HIS EXTREME UGLINESS. BUT WHAT WAS THE SECRET INGREDIENT THAT MADE HIS BELLS PRODUCE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL TONES EVER HEARD? FOR THAT ANSWER, DEAR READER, READ ON....



THEN IT IS ALL ARRANGED. YOU WILL DELIVER THE BELLS WITHIN THE WEEK. BY THE WAY, WHAT IS IT YOU USE TO PRODUCE SUCH A WONDERFUL TONE.
AHH....THAT IS MY SECRET!
IF ONLY HE KNEW THAT THE MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF THE CHILDREN OF DORFSTADT HAD A LOT TO DO WITH THE TONE...BUT THAT'S MY SECRET!
I HAD NOT EXPECTED YOU TO FINISH THE BELLS SO SOON!
I HAD ANOTHER ORDER....TO REPLACE THE BELL OF THE TOWN HALL, BUT I DECIDED TO LET THEM WAIT!
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU FINISHED. LOOK WHO CAME WHILE YOU WERE IN THE SHOP!
JOHANN MIER....MY OLD FRIEND! BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN HEIDELBERG.
HANS, I'M RETURNING TO DORFSTADT TO RETIRE. MY DOCTOR TELLS ME I HAVE BUT A FEW MORE YEARS TO LIVE!
OH, I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT MY FRIEND.
LATER IN THE EVENING, AFTER SUPPER....
YOU SHOULD NOT FEEL BADLY, MY FRIEND. YOU HAVE LIVED A GOOD LIFE!
I ENVY YOU, HANS. I HAVE NO WIFE, NO RELATIVES.
AHH! BUT YOU HAVE FRIENDS, JOHANN:
YES, YOU ARE MY DEAREST FRIEND, HANS, AND FOR THAT REASON, I HAVE MADE YOU MY ONLY HEIR.
THAT IS TRULY A FINE GESTURE, GOOD FRIEND. A KNOCK! WHO WOULD CALL AT THIS HOUR?
TOC
TOC

AHH...IT IS THE BURGOMEISTER.
I HAVE COME FROM A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL. WE WISH TO KNOW WHEN YOU WILL HAVE THE BELL READY.

I WILL GET TO WORK ON IT TOMORROW.
GOOD! AHH....I SEE JOHANN IS HERE. WE MET IN TOWN THIS AFTERNOON.

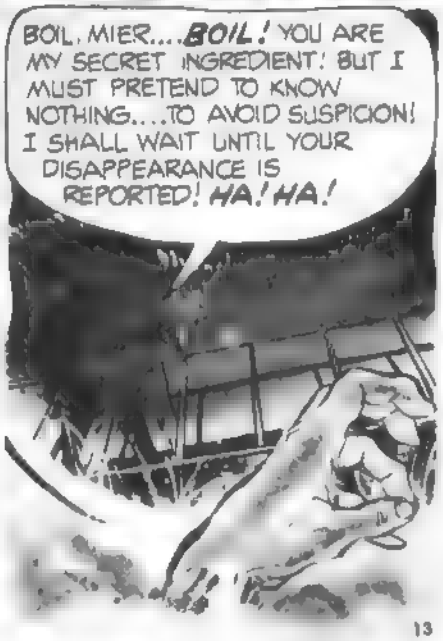

AFTER THE BURGOMEISTER LEFT....
HANS, I'VE NEVER SEEN YOUR SHOP. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE HOW BELLS ARE MADE.
BY ALL MEANS! COME! IT IS ONLY 10:30!

VERY FASCINATING! LOOK, THE CAULDRON BOILS ALREADY!
YES, IT DOESN'T TAKE LONG.
BUT WHERE AM I TO GET ANOTHER CHILD TO THROW IN? THE VILLAGE GROWS SCARCE WITH CHILDREN...

PERHAPS MIER WOULD SERVE AS MY SECRET INGREDIENT, I WOULD ACCOMPLISH A DOUBLE PURPOSE! I WOULD INHERIT HIS MONEY!

HANS, THEY SAY THAT YOU HAVE A SECRET INGREDIENT THAT MAKES YOUR BELLS SOUND LIKE THE VOICES OF ANGELS. WHAT IS IT THAT YOU DO?
YOU SHALL SOON SEE!

GNYAAAA


BOIL, MIER....BOIL! YOU ARE MY SECRET INGREDIENT! BUT I MUST PRETEND TO KNOW NOTHING....TO AVOID SUSPICION! I SHALL WAIT UNTIL YOUR DISAPPEARANCE IS REPORTED! HA! HA!

AFTER FINISHING HIS FIENDISH WORK, WALDEN RETURNED TO THE HOUSE....

OH! YOU'RE STILL AWAKE? ER.... JOHANN HAS ALREADY LEFT.

THAT'S STRANGE. IT'S NOT LIKE HIM TO LEAVE WITHOUT SAYING GOOD NIGHT.

NERVOUSLY, WALDEN AWAITED THE REPORT OF MIER'S DISAPPEARANCE. FINALLY, TWO DAYS LATER...

GOOD DAY, HANS. JOHANN MIER SEEMS TO HAVE DISAPPEARED. IT SEEMS THAT YOU WERE THE LAST TO SEE HIM.

YES, THE SAME NIGHT THAT YOU WERE AT MY HOUSE. BUT HE LEFT SOON AFTER YOU.

WHEN HE DIDN'T RETURN TO HIS HOTEL ROOM, WE ENTERED AND FOUND THIS AMONG HIS EFFECTS. DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU WERE HIS ONLY HEIR?

WHY, YES.... BUT YOU DON'T THINK I WOULD KILL MIER FOR HIS MONEY?

BUT I DIDN'T SAY MIER HAD BEEN ***KILLED!*** I ONLY SAID HE WAS ***MISSING!***

OH....ER....IT WAS THE WAY YOU SAID IT. I THOUGHT YOU WERE SUGGESTING...

THAT NIGHT, AFTER FINISHING THE CASTING OF THE BELL, WALDEN RETIRED...

I ALMOST MADE A DANGEROUS SLIP TODAY....BUT I DON'T THINK THE BURGOMEISTER SUSPECTS ANYTHING.

BUT NO SOONER HAD THE BELL-MAKER FALLEN ASLEEP THAN A STARTLING THING HAPPENED...

WHA....WHAT'S THAT? A BELL TOLLING! AND JOHANN'S ***VOICE!*** IT'S ***MY*** BELL.....IT'S COMING FROM THE SHOP!

DOONGGGGG

AWAKE!! HANS WALDEN AWAKEN

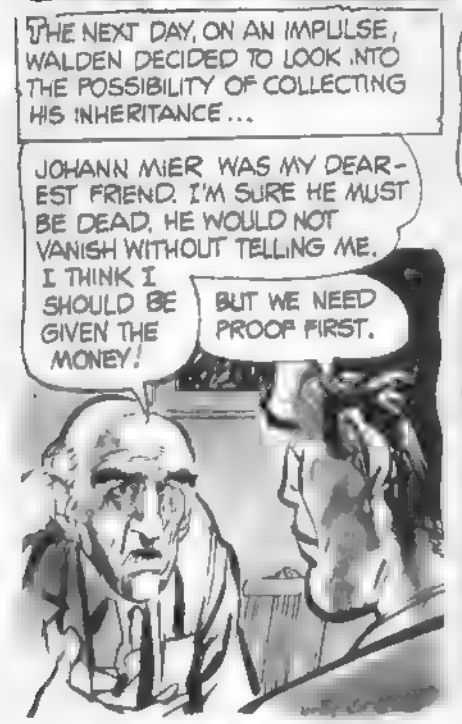
THIS ***CANNOT*** BE!....BUT THAT VOICE...

DONGGG

NO ONE IS HERE....BUT IT CAN'T BE! THE BELL IS TOLLING BY ITSELF! STOP! DO YOU HEAR ME?

IT'S STOPPED. BUT HOW COULD IT RING BY ITSELF? WAIT.... THAT VOICE...
YOU WILL KNOW NO REST TILL I AM AVENGED, HANS WALDEN. I SHALL TOLL EVERY NIGHT AT 11:00.

NO...NO! IT CAN'T BE! JOHANN IS DEAD!


THE NEXT DAY, ON AN IMPULSE, WALDEN DECIDED TO LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF COLLECTING HIS INHERITANCE...
JOHANN MIER WAS MY DEAREST FRIEND. I'M SURE HE MUST BE DEAD. HE WOULD NOT VANISH WITHOUT TELLING ME. I THINK I SHOULD BE GIVEN THE MONEY!
BUT WE NEED PROOF FIRST.

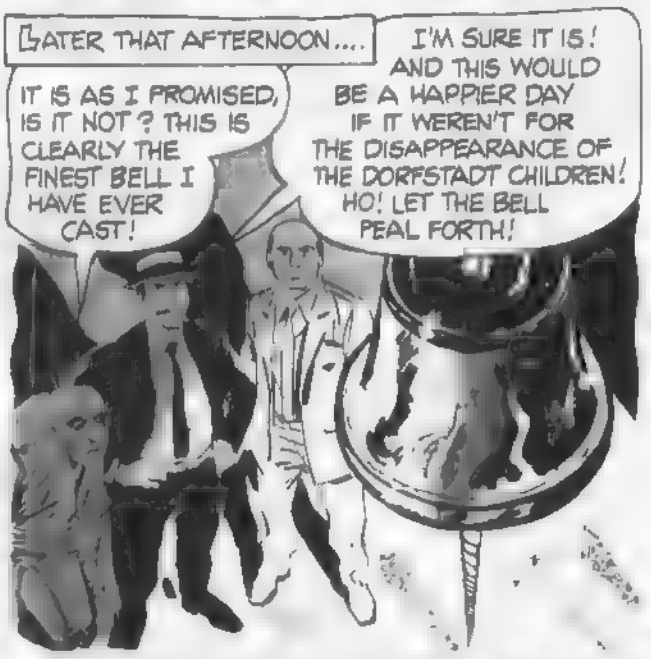
YOU SEE, WITHOUT PROOF, WE MUST ASSUME HE IS STILL ALIVE ACCORDING TO GERMAN LAW. A MAN CANNOT BE CONSIDERED DEAD UNTIL TEN YEARS AFTER HIS DISAPPEARANCE!
WHAT?

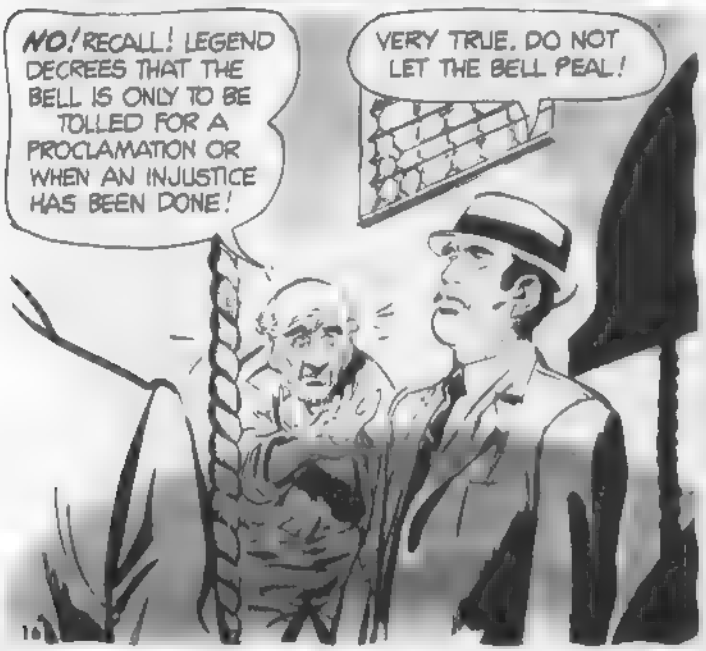
TEN YEARS! I'M TRAPPED. I CANNOT TELL THEM, AND THEY WON'T GIVE ME THE MONEY... WAIT! WHAT'S THAT? THE BELL AGAIN!

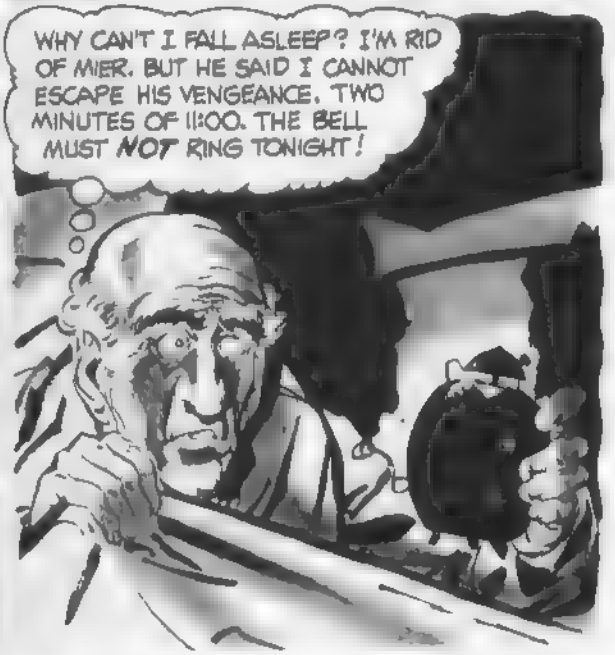
I WON'T GO OUT...I WON'T LISTEN TO IT! I'LL SHUT OUT THE SOUND! OHH....HOW TERRIBLE IT SOUNDS! IT'S NOT LIKE THE OTHER BELLS!

HANS WALDEN....I WILL HAUNT YOUR EVERY HOUR TILL YOU CONFESS YOUR SINS!
NO! STOP THE BELL FROM TOLLING! MY HEAD IS SPLITTING!

THE NEXT DAY, WALDEN RESOLVED ON A PLAN....
I'LL RID MYSELF OF YOU! I'LL FINISH UP THE BELL AND HAVE IT PLACED IN THE TOWN HALL.
IT WILL DO NO GOOD! YOU CANNOT ESCAPE MY VENGEANCE!

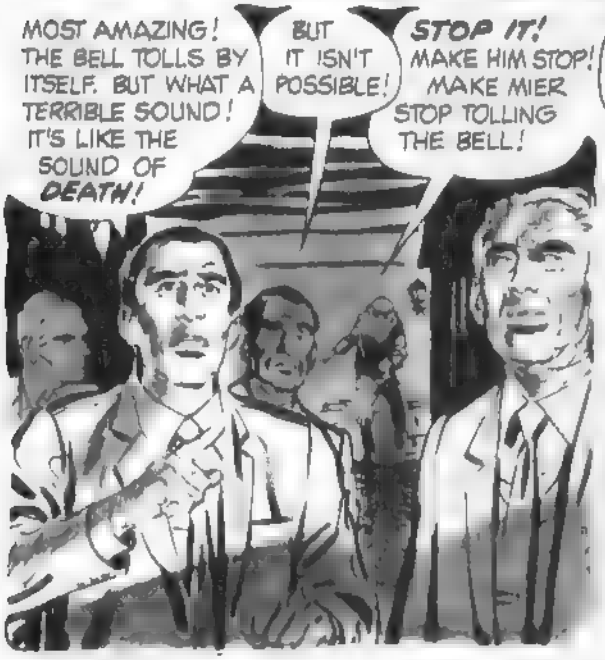

LATER THAT AFTERNOON....
IT IS AS I PROMISED, IS IT NOT? THIS IS CLEARLY THE FINEST BELL I HAVE EVER CAST!
I'M SURE IT IS! AND THIS WOULD BE A HAPPIER DAY IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE DORFSTADT CHILDREN! HO! LET THE BELL PEAL FORTH!


NO! RECALL! LEGEND DECREES THAT THE BELL IS ONLY TO BE TOLLED FOR A PROCLAMATION OR WHEN AN INJUSTICE HAS BEEN DONE!
VERY TRUE. DO NOT LET THE BELL PEAL!

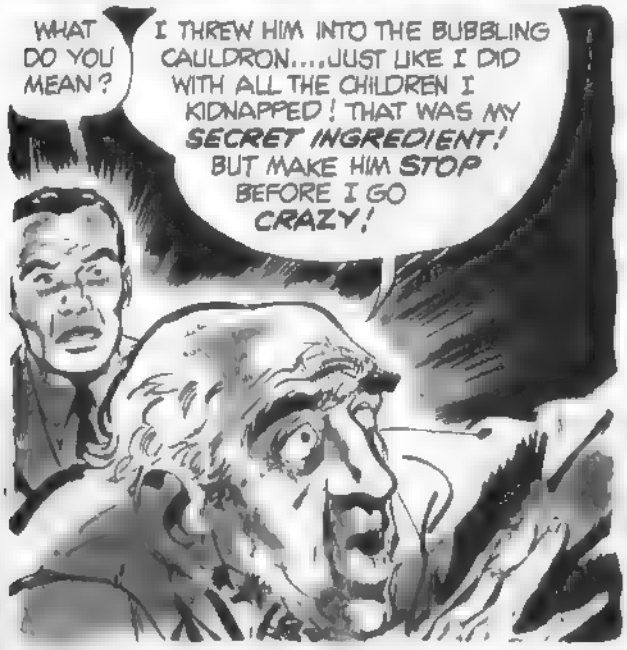

WHY CAN'T I FALL ASLEEP? I'M RID OF MIER. BUT HE SAID I CANNOT ESCAPE HIS VENGEANCE. TWO MINUTES OF 11:00. THE BELL MUST NOT RING TONIGHT!

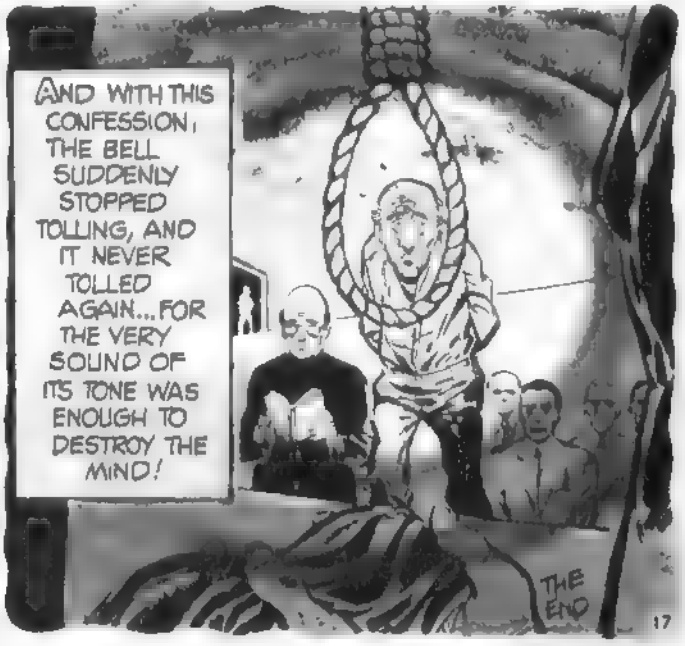
IT'S STARTED! NO....I MUST BE IMAGINING IT! OHH, I CAN'T SHUT IT OUT....MY BRAIN IS THROBBING! I MUST STOP IT!
DONNG
DONNG

MIER! STOP IT, DO YOU HEAR? WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO? I'LL HAVE TO STOP HIM BEFORE HE GIVES MY SECRET AWAY!


MOST AMAZING! THE BELL TOLLS BY ITSELF. BUT WHAT A TERRIBLE SOUND! IT'S LIKE THE SOUND OF DEATH!
BUT IT ISN'T POSSIBLE!
STOP IT! MAKE HIM STOP! MAKE MIER STOP TOLLING THE BELL!

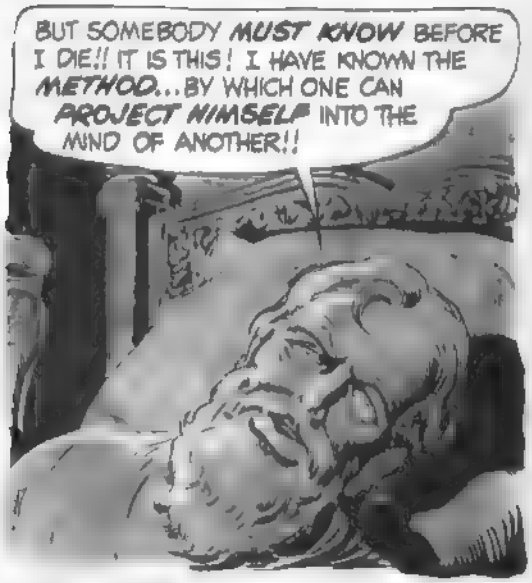
MIER? WHAT HAS ME GOT TO DO WITH THE BELL TOLLING BY ITSELF?
IT'S MIER! HE'S DOING IT! HE'S IN THE BELL!

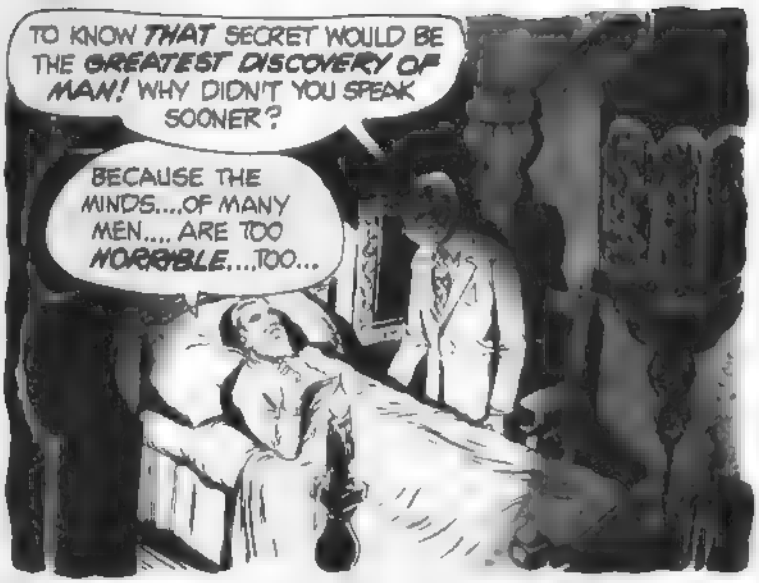

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I THREW HIM INTO THE BUBBLING CAULDRON....JUST LIKE I DID WITH ALL THE CHILDREN I KIDNAPPED! THAT WAS MY SECRET INGREDIENT! BUT MAKE HIM STOP BEFORE I GO CRAZY!

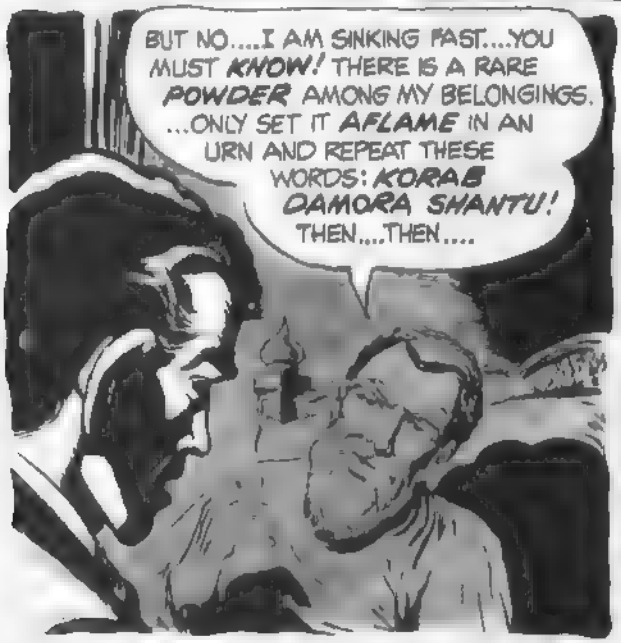

AND WITH THIS CONFESSION, THE BELL SUDDENLY STOPPED TOLLING, AND IT NEVER TOLLED AGAIN...FOR THE VERY SOUND OF ITS TONE WAS ENOUGH TO DESTROY THE MIND!
THE END

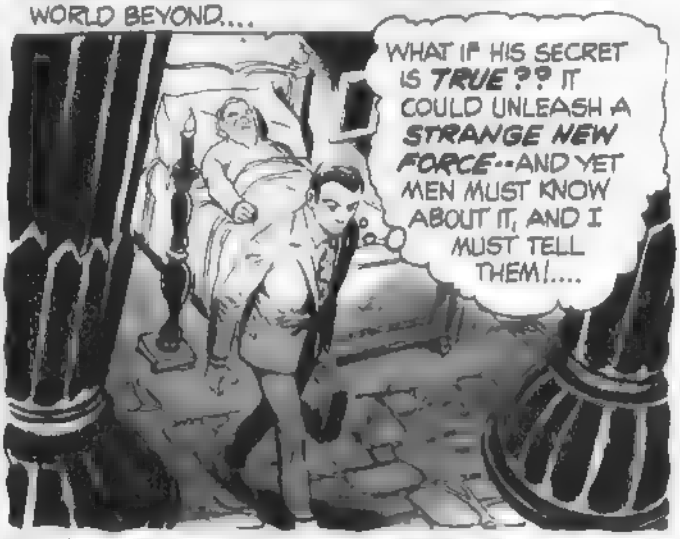
TO PENETRATE THE SECRET FORTRESS OF THE HUMAN BRAIN IS TO HURTLE INTO A BLACK AND BOTTOMLESS PIT OF ***EVIL*** AND ***HORROR!!*** SO DR. HARKNESS LEARNED....

PIT OF MONSTERS

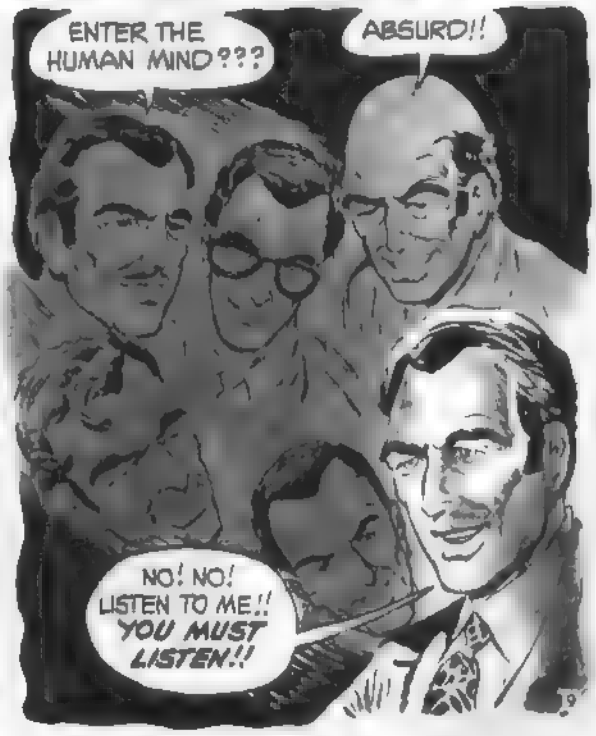

BUT SOMEBODY MUST KNOW BEFORE I DIE!! IT IS THIS! I HAVE KNOWN THE METHOD...BY WHICH ONE CAN PROJECT HIMSELF INTO THE MIND OF ANOTHER!!


TO KNOW THAT SECRET WOULD BE THE GREATEST DISCOVERY OF MAN! WHY DIDN'T YOU SPEAK SOONER?
BECAUSE THE MINDS....OF MANY MEN.... ARE TOO HORRIBLE....TOO...

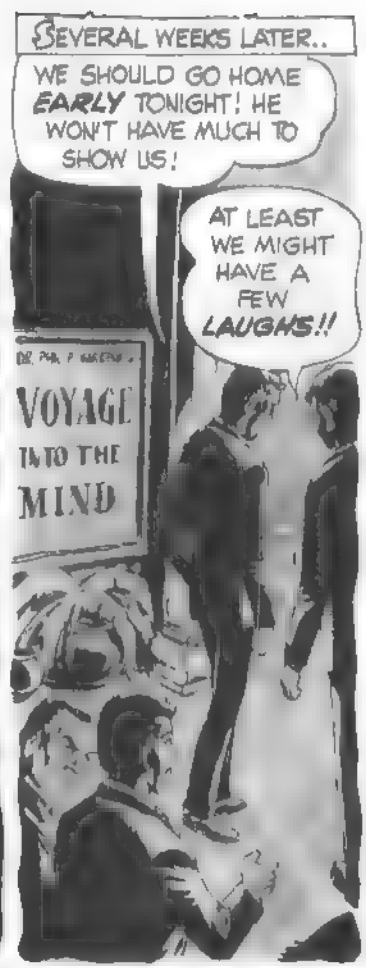

BUT NO....I AM SINKING FAST....YOU MUST KNOW! THERE IS A RARE POWDER AMONG MY BELONGINGS. ...ONLY SET IT AFLAME IN AN URN AND REPEAT THESE WORDS: KORAB DAMORA SHANTU! THEN....THEN....


SUDDENLY THE VOICE OF RANJAB AL MARI GROWS DIMMER....THE HANDS GROW COLD...AND THE FAMED MAGICIAN JOINS HIS ANCESTORS IN THE WORLD BEYOND....
WHAT IF HIS SECRET IS TRUE?? IT COULD UNLEASH A STRANGE NEW FORCE--AND YET MEN MUST KNOW ABOUT IT, AND I MUST TELL THEM!....

SEVERAL MONTHS LATER, DOCTOR HARKNESS, GRIMLY DETERMINED TO PRESENT RANJAB'S SECRET BEFORE THE WORLD, APPEARS BEFORE A PANEL OF SCIENTISTS.
...BUT, GENTLEMEN, I HAVE THE FIRMEST FAITH IN RANJAB'S REVELATION!
NONSENSE, DOCTOR HARKNESS, YOU HAVE BEEN DUPED BY A MAGICIAN...


ENTER THE HUMAN MIND???
ABSURD!!
NO! NO! LISTEN TO ME!! YOU MUST LISTEN!!

I ASK ONLY THIS, DR. PENDLETON: LET ME GIVE A DEMONSTRATION OF RANJAB'S THEORY!
VERY WELL, HARKNESS, BUT THIS WILL BE YOUR ONLY CHANCE!


SEVERAL WEEKS LATER..
WE SHOULD GO HOME EARLY TONIGHT! HE WON'T HAVE MUCH TO SHOW US!
AT LEAST WE MIGHT HAVE A FEW LAUGHS!!
VOYAGE INTO THE MIND

...MY FIRST REQUEST, GENTLEMEN, IS FOR A SUBJECT! WOULD ANYONE CARE TO VOLUNTEER???

IF THE GENTLEMAN IN THE BLUE SUIT WILL STEP TO THE PLATFORM, I SHOULD BE GLAD TO BEGIN MY DEMONSTRATION!
...IF YOU WISH, DOCTOR!

I AM READY TO START...ARE YOU COMFORTABLE, SIR??
YES, YES, PERFECTLY!

SUDDENLY A GRIM SILENCE FALLS OVER THE AUDIENCE AS THE STRANGE EXPERIMENT BEGINS...
I SHALL NOW DROP THIS MATCH INTO THE URN WHICH CONTAINS THE POWDER OF RANJAB AL MARI!

KORAB DAMORA SHANTU!!

THE SECRET WORDS UTTERED, DOCTOR HARKNESS FEELS HIMSELF HURLED OUT OF TIME AND SPACE INTO A NEW AND FORBIDDEN WORLD OF THE HUMAN MIND!
YAAAH-H-H-H!!!

WH---I HAVE BEEN PROJECTED INTO HIS MIND....HOW STRANGE IT IS! LIKE A LONG AND ENDLESS PATHWAY!!

SUDDENLY AN OVERWHELMING HORROR ALMOST CRUSHES THE DOCTOR'S SANITY AS APPALLING AND LOATHESOME MONSTERS APPEAR!!
GOOD LORD!!... WHAT ARE THEY??
SEE! SEE FRIENDS!! STILL ANOTHER VICTIM!!

WE MUST DESTROY HIM BEFORE HE ESCAPES!!
LET ME AT HIM!! I SHALL KILL HIM IN A MOMENT!!

WITH THE WILD FRENZY OF TERROR, HARKNESS FLEES FROM THE BLOOD-THIRSTY DEMONS OF THE MIND....
THIS MAN'S MIND MUST BE..... DEPRAVED!!
KILL! KILL! KILL!!

WITH A NUMBING DREAD STILL LURKING IN THE ROOM LIKE A GHASTLY SPIRIT, DOCTOR HARKNESS TURNS TO ADDRESS HIS AUDIENCE FOR THE LAST TIME...

HEH... HEH... HEH... WELCOME TO THE HAUNT OF HORROR! I'VE GOT A JUICY MORSEL FOR YOUR VAMPIRE-LIKE APPETITES! PUT YOUR DROOL BIBS ON AND READ THIS TALE I CALL...
FLAMING GHOST
I-I LOVED YOU, LENORE... BUT YOU CHEATED ON ME! NOW YOU DIE FOR IT!!!

JOHN PEIRSON IS THE OWNER OF A LARGE CREMATORIUM IN HOLLYWOOD... AND HIS "CUSTOMERS" ARE ALWAYS WEALTHY...
THIS FRANCOIS DUNLAP WAS A BILLIONAIRE! BUT WHEN THEY'RE DEAD, THEY ALL LOOK ALIKE!
BURN HIM, MAC!
YES, THE CREMATORIUM DOES A GOOD BUSINESS! A BURNING COSTS $5,000!
HERE YA GO, FRANCIOS, OLD BOY! HAPPY LANDINGS!

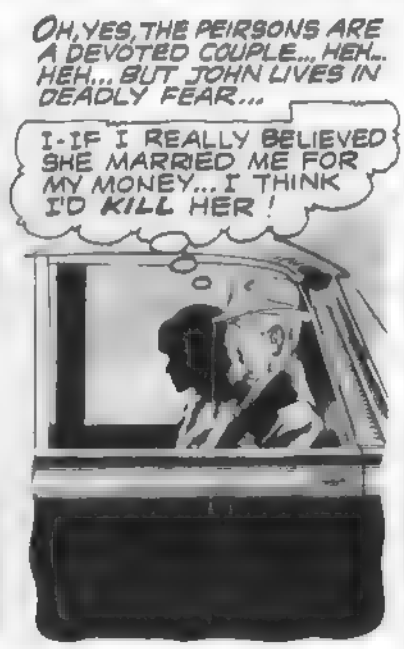
HEH...HEH...BURN! SOON YOU'LL BE ONLY ASHES...

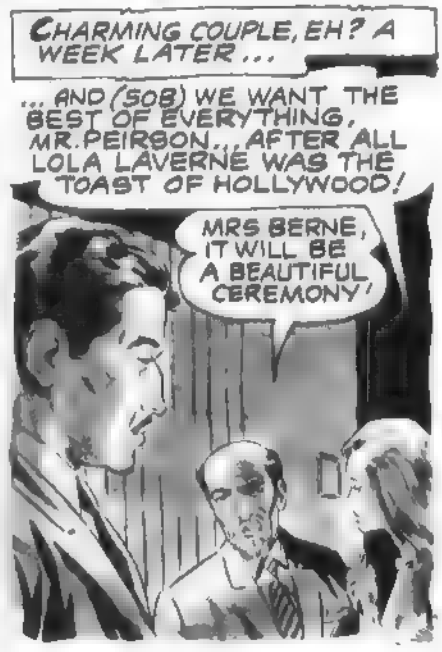
BUT LET'S TURN TO MORE PLEASANT THINGS... NOT ONLY DOES JOHN PEIRSON OWN A CREMATORIUM... HE ALSO HAS A BEAUTIFUL WIFE...
HURRY, DARLING... WE'RE DUE AT THE CARLTONS IN TEN MINUTES!
WE'LL HAVE TO BE LATE, MY DEAR! I HAVE A STOP TO MAKE!

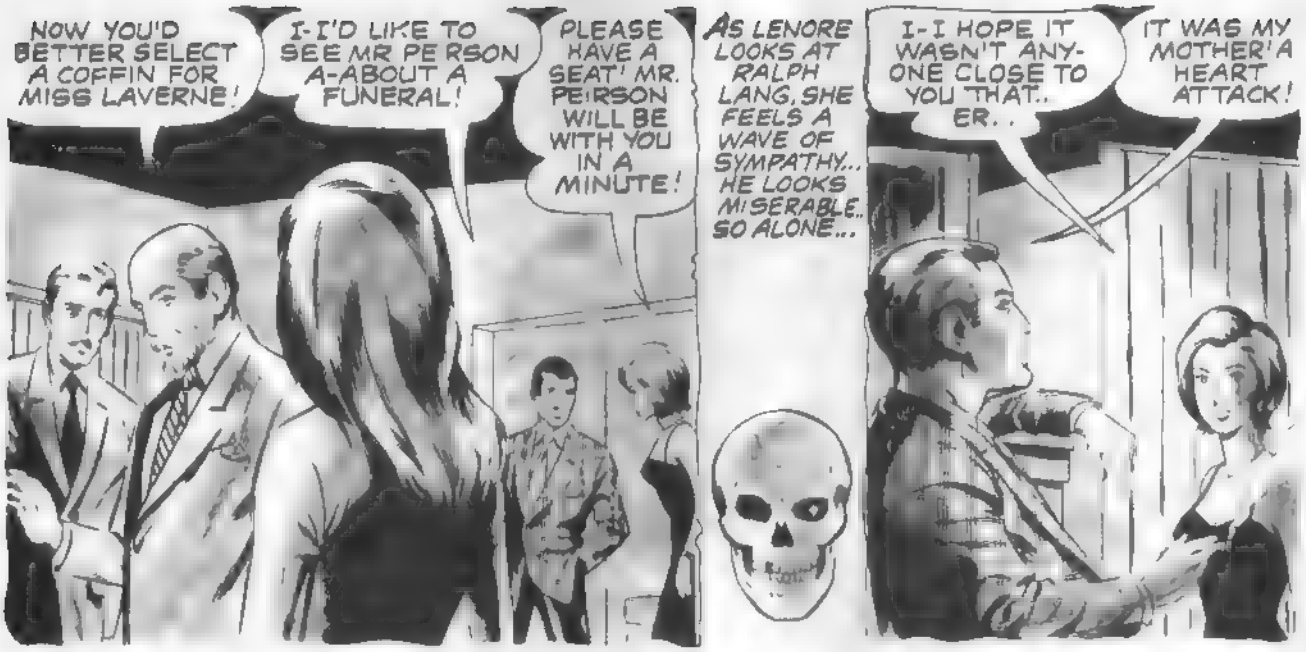
LENORE PEIRSON IS THE APPLE OF HER HUSBAND'S EYE! SHE'S AN EX-HOLLYWOOD BIT PLAYER, TWENTY YEARS YOUNGER THAN JOHN...
WHERE DO WE HAVE TO STOP, HONEY?
IT'S A SECRET, MY PET!

LENORE SMILES... "A SECRET" ALWAYS MEANS A PRESENT FOR HER...
JOHN IS SO SWEET AND SO THOUGHTFUL! I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD DO WITHOUT HIM!

LATER...
JUST REMEMBER, LENORE... YOU'RE MINE! IF-IF YOU EVER LEAVE ME, I'D... I'D...
DON'T TALK THAT WAY! I LOVE YOU AND I'LL NEVER LEAVE YOU!


OH, YES, THE PEIRSONS ARE A DEVOTED COUPLE... HEH... HEH... BUT JOHN LIVES IN DEADLY FEAR...
I-IF I REALLY BELIEVED SHE MARRIED ME FOR MY MONEY... I THINK I'D KILL HER!


CHARMING COUPLE, EH? A WEEK LATER...
... AND (SOB) WE WANT THE BEST OF EVERYTHING, MR. PEIRSON... AFTER ALL LOLA LAVERNE WAS THE TOAST OF HOLLYWOOD!
MRS BERNE, IT WILL BE A BEAUTIFUL CEREMONY!


NOW YOU'D BETTER SELECT A COFFIN FOR MISS LAVERNE!
I-I'D LIKE TO SEE MR PERSON A-ABOUT A FUNERAL!
PLEASE HAVE A SEAT! MR. PERSON WILL BE WITH YOU IN A MINUTE!
AS LENORE LOOKS AT RALPH LANG, SHE FEELS A WAVE OF SYMPATHY... HE LOOKS MISERABLE... SO ALONE...
I-I HOPE IT WASN'T ANYONE CLOSE TO YOU THAT.. ER..
IT WAS MY MOTHER'A HEART ATTACK!

A FEW MINUTES LATER, RALPH IS TALKING TO JOHN...
A HUNDRED DOLLARS? YOUNG MAN, YOU'RE IN THE WRONG PLACE! I CAN'T CONDUCT A FUNERAL FOR THAT PRICE...
JOHN, CAN'T YOU MAKE AN EXCEPTION? IT'S HIS MOTHER! PLEASE, JOHN!

A FLICKER OF JEALOUSY CROSSES JOHN'S EYES, BUT THEN...
DON'T BE RIDICU... OH, ALL RIGHT, MY DEA[redacted] I'LL DO AS YOU ASK! YOU MAY HAVE THE FUNERAL AT THAT PRICE, YOUNG MAN!

A FEW DAYS LATER, JOHN TRIED TO PUSH THE THOUGHT OF RALPH LANG OUT OF HIS MIND, BUT...HE HASN'T BEEN TOO SUCCESSFUL!
SHE SEEMED SO FRIENDLY TOWARD HIM! I-I WONDER IF... GOT TO STOP THINKING ABOUT IT! IT'S OUR ANNIVERSARY TONIGHT! MAYBE I'LL GET HER SOMETHING...

BUT AS HE LOOKS UP INTO THE WINDOW, JOHN SEES A SIGHT THAT MAKES HIS BLOOD RUN COLD...
LENORE!...AND SHE'S WITH HIM!

JOHN IS WILD WITH RAGE AND JEALOUSY, BUT FOR THE TIME BEING HE KEEPS QUIET ABOUT WHAT HE SAW THAT NIGHT...

STOP LOOKING LIKE A THUNDER CLOUD, DARLING... IT'S OUR ANNIVERSARY!

LENORE HANDS JOHN A PACKAGE, AND WHEN HE OPENS IT, HE FINDS...
"...TO MY DEAREST HUSBAND WITH ALL MY LOVE, LENORE..." THANK YOU, MY DEAR! IT'S VERY CHARMING!
YOU SEEM DEPRESSED, JOHN!
WHY IS SHE ACTING SO SWEET? PROBABLY TRYING TO HIDE SOMETHING!
AS THE DAYS PASS, JOHN IS LIKE A MAN POSESSED... IS LENORE REALLY BEING UNFAITHFUL ???
I DON'T SEE ANY LETTERS FROM HIM... MAYBE I'M ALL WRONG... MAYBE SHE... WAIT A MINUTE... WHAT'S THIS? HER CHECK BOOK!
...AND A CHECK TO RALPH FOR $400! THAT LITTLE TWO-TIMER! I WAS RIGHT!!
JOHN PACES AROUND LENORE'S ROOM LIKE A MADMAN... AND... AS IF TO PROVE HIS SUSPICIONS WHEN HE PEERS OUT OF THE WINDOW...
SHE'S WITH HIM--PROBABLY THINKS I'M AT THE CREMATORIUM... OH, LENORE... YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS... PAY WITH YOUR LIFE!
HEH... HEH... HEH! JOHN'S LOVE IS RAPIDLY TURNING INTO A BURNING, RAGING HATRED!
SO... YOU FEEL HAPPY NOW, DO YOU, MY CHARMING WIFE? WELL, MY DEAR... TONIGHT YOU'LL NOT BE FEELING ANYTHING!
IT IS NIGHT! AFTER A QUIET DINNER WITH HER HUSBAND, LENORE HAS RETIRED TO HER ROOM AND GONE TO BED...

SUDDENLY...
WAKE UP, MY SWEET... WAKE UP, IT'S TIME!

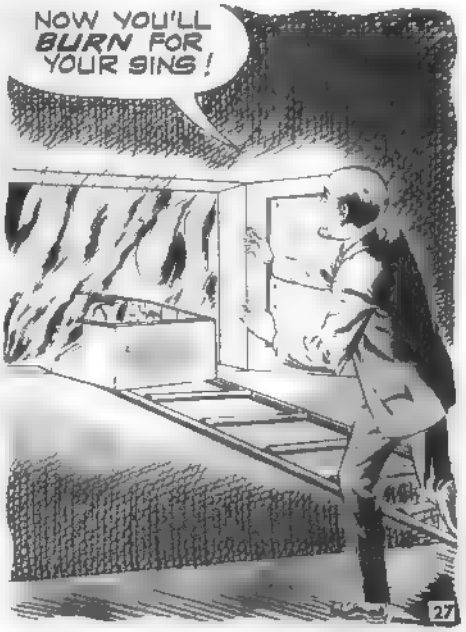
JOHN, FOR GOD'S SAKE...WHAT'S THE MATTER... ARE YOU DRUNK...
DRUNK? HA! HA! HA! NO, LENORE, I'M NOT DRUNK! I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I'M DOING...

LENORE'S STRUGGLES AND SCREAMS ARE IN VAIN...
JOHN, STOP IT! YOU'VE LOST YOUR MIND! LET ME GO!
NO, MY DEAR... YOU MUST HAVE LOST YOUR MIND TO THINK YOU FOOLED ME!

IN THE DARK OF NIGHT, JOHN HAS TAKEN LENORE TO THE CREMATORIUM WITHOUT BEING OBSERVED...

I CAN SEE BY YOUR EYES THAT YOU'RE PLEADING WITH ME...BUT IT'S TOO LATE, MY DEAR!

WITH LENORE TIED INSIDE A COFFIN, JOHN IS READY TO COMPLETE THE LAST STEP OF HIS TERRIBLE REVENGE...
YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD GET AWAY WITH IT... YOU AND RALPH LANG...BUT YOU WERE WRONG, MY PET... VERY WRONG!


NOW YOU'LL BURN FOR YOUR SINS!

JOHN WATCHES FROM A WINDOW AS THE FLAMES CONSUME HIS WIFE!

H-HOW COULD YOU HAVE DONE IT TO ME, LENORE? I LOVED YOU SO... AND ALL YOU WANTED WAS MY MONEY!

NOW... THE BODY OF LENORE PEIRSON IS NOTHING BUT ASHES! ASHES WHICH JOHN PLACES IN AN URN...

NOW YOU'RE **MINE** AGAIN, LENORE... YOU'LL NEVER LEAVE ME... **NEVER!**

THE URN IS PLACED ON A SHELF IN JOHN'S SITTING ROOM!

SEE, MY SWEET... NOW YOU'RE BACK HOME... ISN'T IT PEACEFUL... JUST YOU AND ME, TOGETHER!

JOHN TELLS EVERYONE THAT LENORE HAS GONE ON AN EXTENDED VACATION AND FOR A TIME HE IS CONTENTED...

GOOD MORNING, LENORE DEAR... I'M AFRAID I'VE GOT A BUSY DAY AHEAD! I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE YOU UNTIL TONIGHT! TRY NOT TO BE TOO LONESOME WHILE I'M GONE!

JOHN LEAVES... THE ROOM IS SILENT EXCEPT FOR A SLIGHT STIRRING WITHIN THE URN...

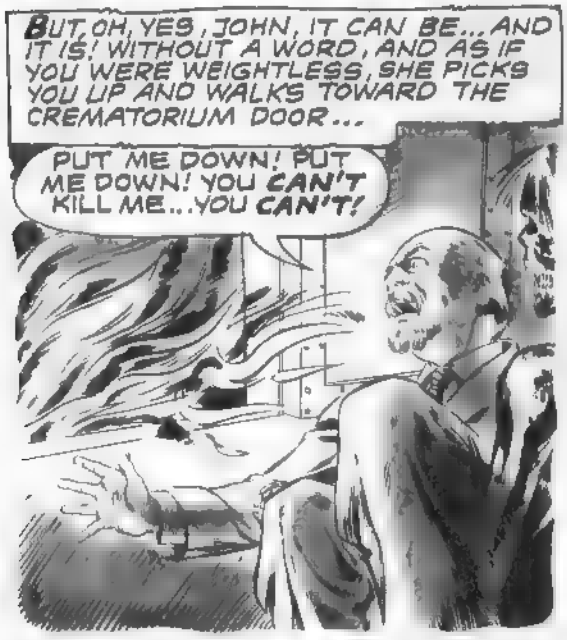
HEH... HEH... HEH... YES, THERE'S DEFINITELY MOVEMENT WITHIN THE URN...

...AND AN AGONIZING FEW MINUTES LATER...

HEH... HEH... HEH... EACH STEP IS TORTURE, BUT THE ROTTING, BURNED CREATURE MAKES ITS WAY PAINFULLY ACROSS TOWN UNTIL IT REACHES ITS DESTINATION...

AND A FEW MINUTES LATER...
NO MORE BUSINESS TODAY... GUESS I'LL TURN DOWN THE FURNACE'S HEAT AND...

OH, MY GOD! NO! NO! I-IT CAN'T BE...


BUT, OH, YES, JOHN, IT CAN BE... AND IT IS! WITHOUT A WORD, AND AS IF YOU WERE WEIGHTLESS, SHE PICKS YOU UP AND WALKS TOWARD THE CREMATORIUM DOOR...
PUT ME DOWN! PUT ME DOWN! YOU CAN'T KILL ME... YOU CAN'T!

BUT EVEN AS YOU SCREAM, YOU KNOW IT'S USELESS, DON'T YOU, JOHN? OF COURSE SHE CAN KILL YOU... AND SHE DOES!

AND SO ENDS OUR TALE OF... WHAT? WHAT'S THAT YOU ASKED? OH, I SEE... YOU WANT TO KNOW IF LENORE WAS REALLY UNFAITHFUL? LET'S GO BACK TO THE CREMATORIUM TWO DAYS LATER!

OH, YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN MRS. PEIRSON WILL BE BACK? WELL, WOULD YOU HAVE THIS FORWARDED TO HER, PLEASE?

IT'S A CHECK! SHE LOANED ME THE MONEY TO BRING MY WIFE OUT HERE FROM THE EAST! WONDERFUL WOMAN, MRS. PEIRSON -- JUST LIKE A MOTHER TO ME!

THE END

The EMPTY COFFIN

A MIASMA OF DEATH AND DECAY, LIKE THE RANK ODOR OF ROTTING FLESH, HUNG OVER THE HOUSE OF CORINTH! THERE WAS MADNESS IN THE VERY AIR! AND TO ADD TO THE TERROR WAS THE UNRELENTING SPECTRE OF THE JEALOUS GHOST...

IT DID NOT TAKE ROSE TALLON, PAID COMPANION TO MRS. MAURY CORINTH, LONG TO GET HER HOOKS INTO HER EMPLOYERS HUSBAND...

WHILE MRS. MAURY CORINTH, LAST OF A FAMOUS SOUTHERN FAMILY, IS UNSUSPECTING...
SO NICE FOR DEAR MAURY! I'M NOT VERY GOOD COMPANY, CRIPPLED AS I AM! SHE'S ALMOST AS MUCH HIS COMPANION AS MINE!
HELLO, DEAR! WE WENT FOR A LITTLE WALK!
TIME FOR YOU TO BE IN BED, MRS. CORINTH!
I SUPPOSE SO! GOODNIGHT, MAURY!
GOODNIGHT, DEAR!
THAT NIGHT THE CRIPPLED WOMAN MAKES A STRANGE REMARK...
YOU'VE BEEN HERE A MONTH NOW, ROSE! TELL ME — HAVE YOU NOTICED ANYTHING STRANGE ABOUT MAURY?
ANYTHING STRANGE? NO, OF COURSE NOT! WHY?
OH, NOTHING! FORGET IT! PERHAPS I SHOULDN'T HAVE MENTIONED IT AFTER ALL! THE POOR MAN IS SO MUCH BETTER THESE DAYS! GOODNIGHT, ROSE!
NOW WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE SHE MEANT BY THAT? HMMM— MAYBE SHE'S GETTING WISE TO ME. THAT MEANS I HAD BETTER ACT FAST!
SO A FEW NIGHTS LATER...
HA-HAH — THIS WILL BE THE END OF MRS. MAURY CORINTH! IT OVERSTIMULATES THE HEART AND LEAVES NO TRACES! HER DOCTOR WILL THINK IT WAS A HEART ATTACK!

TIME FOR YOUR TEA, MRS. CORINTH!
YES! I HOPE TO SLEEP WELL TONIGHT. A NICE LONG SLEEP!

DON'T WORRY! YOU'LL SLEEP WELL — YOU'LL SLEEP FOREVER!

AHHHH—MY THROAT IS BURNING! THE TEA! Y—YOU POISONED ME!
YES, YOU FOOL! I WANT YOUR HUSBAND— AND YOUR MONEY.

ALL GOES WELL! THE WIFE IS BURIED IN THE FAMILY VAULT, AND NOT EVEN HER HUSBAND SUSPECTS THAT SHE WAS MURDERED...
POOR WOMAN! SHE LOVED ME AND TOOK CARE OF ME ALL HER LIFE! I WONDER WHY SHE DIED SO SUDDENLY?
WHAT A FOOL MAURY IS! HOW CAN HE BE SO STUPID, OR IS HE ONLY PRETENDING?

YOU MUST FORGET HER, DARLING! AFTER ALL, WE HAVE EACH OTHER NOW! AND YOU'LL GET ALL HER MONEY WHEN THE WILL IS PROBATED!
WHAT? OH, YES, THE WILL! I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT I DON'T CARE!

I—I DON'T WANT TO TALK, ROSE. I THINK I'LL GO UP TO THE ATTIC AND PLAY WITH MY TOYS!
WHAT! PLAY WITH YOUR TOYS? MAURY!

ROSE FOLLOWS IN A FEW MINUTES AND SPIES ON MAURY...
HE IS PLAYING WITH TOYS! HE'S GONE MAD! MUST HAVE BEEN THE SHOCK OF HIS WIFE'S DEATH! OH, THE GIBBERING FOOL!

THERE! I DID IT! SHE ALWAYS LIKED FOR ME TO PLAY WITH MY BLOCKS! HEH-HEH— I REMEMBER HOW SHE USED TO HELP ME! BUT NOW I'LL BUILD A NICE HOUSE!

BACK IN HER ROOM ROSE IS EATEN WITH RAGE AND FRUSTRATION...
THE IDIOT! WE CAN'T PROBATE THE WILL NOW! THEY'LL NEVER GIVE HER MONEY TO A MADMAN! I'VE BEEN CHEATED! I MURDERED HER FOR NOTHING! THEY WON'T EVEN LET ME MARRY HIM!

HA—HAH— THE WORST OF IT IS THAT SHE TRIED TO WARN ME! SHE HINTED THAT HE WAS CRAZY AND I COULDN'T SEE IT! WHY, HE MUST HAVE BEEN MAD FOR YEARS. AND THIS WAS THE FINAL PUSH! NOTHING TO DO NOW BUT GET OUT!

SUDDENLY THERE IS A GREAT CLAP OF THUNDER...
OH, THE STORM! THAT WIND, ALMOST TEARING THE HOUSE DOWN! THE WINDOW...

AND...
YOU! OH, NO! YOU'RE DEAD, YOU CAN'T!
BUT I CAN, MY DEAR! I ALWAYS LOVED MY HUSBAND, MY POOR DEMENTED MAURY! I'VE COME BACK TO PROTECT HIM FROM YOU!

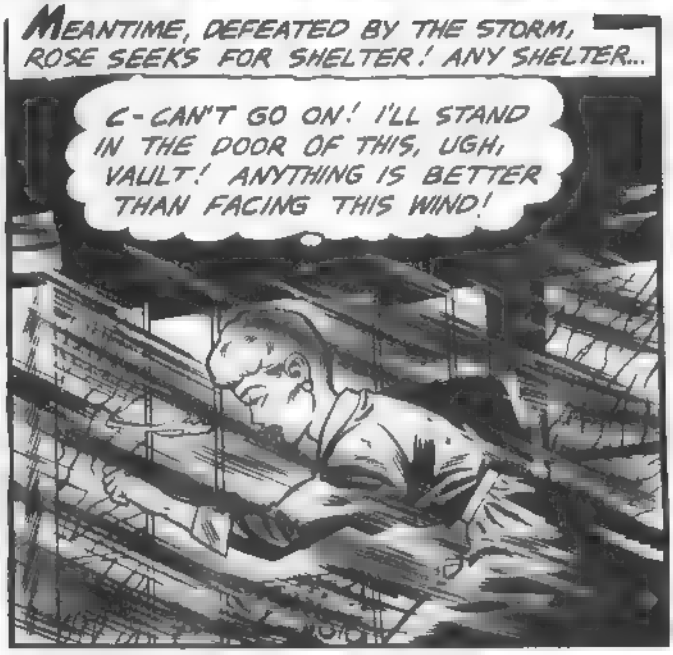
YOU CAN HAVE HIM! HE'S RAVING! STARK MAD! AND I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!
ARE YOU? MURDERERS NEVER WIN, ROSE! YOU WON'T GET FAR IN THIS STORM!

DON'T CARE ABOUT THE STORM! I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY OR I'LL SOON BE CRAZY TOO!

WHILE INSIDE...
MY POOR DARLING! HE MUST BE IN THE ATTIC PLAYING AS HE USED TO DO! I'LL SEE IF HE'S ALL RIGHT!

THERE YOU ARE AT LAST! SEE — ISN'T IT A LOVELY HOUSE? I BUILT IT FOR YOU!

IT'S MARVELOUS, DARLING! DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING! I'LL ALWAYS TAKE CARE OF YOU!
I KNOW!


MEANTIME, DEFEATED BY THE STORM, ROSE SEEKS FOR SHELTER! ANY SHELTER...
C-CAN'T GO ON! I'LL STAND IN THE DOOR OF THIS, UGH, VAULT! ANYTHING IS BETTER THAN FACING THIS WIND!

THE DOOR! IT'S UNLOCKED! TH- I DID SEE HER! IT WASN'T MY IMAGINATION!

SOME DREADFUL COMPULSION DRAWS HER INTO THE COLDNESS OF THE VAULT...
IT'S BETTER IN H-HERE! I'LL JUST WAIT UNTIL THE STORM STOPS, THEN...

OHHH — THE DOOR!
SLAM

LOCKED! I'M TRAPPED IN HERE!
BAM
WHAM

AS THE TERRIFIED GIRL COWERS, SHE HEARS A VOICE — THE VOICE OF THE DEAD WOMAN...
NO ONE WILL COME FOR YOU — EVER! YOU'RE DOOMED! BUT THERE IS ONE WAY OUT! LOOK IN THE EMPTY COFFIN! LOOK IN MY EMPTY COFFIN!
IN HER COFFIN!

THE WAY OUT! THE SAME VIAL OF POISON! OHHHHH —

TERROR OF THE DEAD!

D-DON'T COME NEAR ME! NO--NO!

DAILY, EBEN WENT INTO TOWN AND SUFFERED THE MACABRE AND UNKIND JIBES OF THE TOWNSFOLK...

HOW'S BUSINESS, EBEN? SAYS IN THE PAPER THAT THE WORLD IS FACING A GRAVE SITUATION! HAW! HAW!

HEE! HEE! OF CORPSE IT IS, JAKE! SAY, EBEN, YOU LOOK TIRED! MAYBE YOU NEED NEW SPRINGS IN THAT COFFIN YOU SLEEP IN!

EBEN FACED THIS RIDICULE FOR AN UNSUSPECTED REASON! ONCE HE HAD COURTED ANN HALE, BUT SHE MARRIED JOHN FRICK! EBEN'S ONLY LITTLE PLEASURE WAS OCCASIONALLY SEEING ANN...

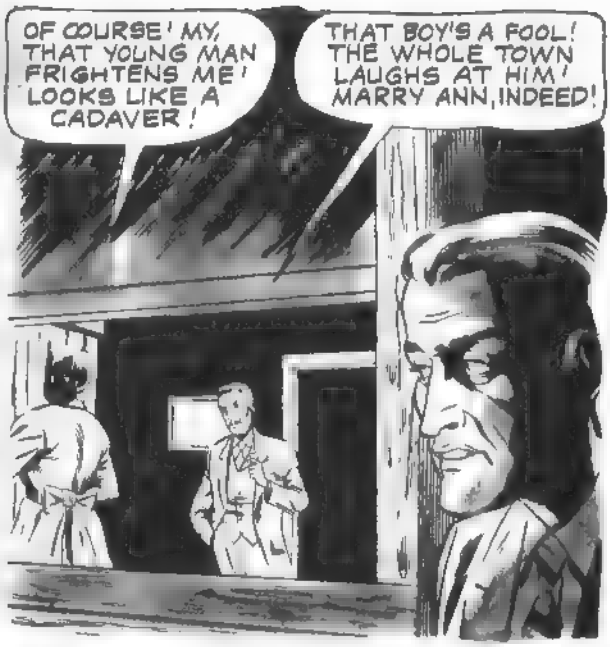
GOOD MORNING, ANN! YOUR PARENTS STILL VISITING WITH YOU?

YES, EBEN, BUT JOHN'S DRIVING THEM TO BOLTON TOMORROW!

U.S POS

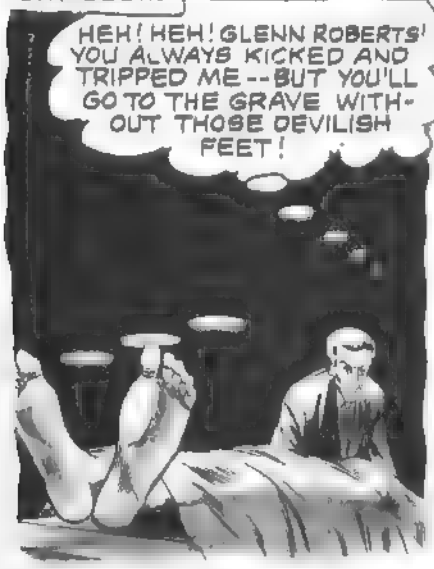
ENTRANCE

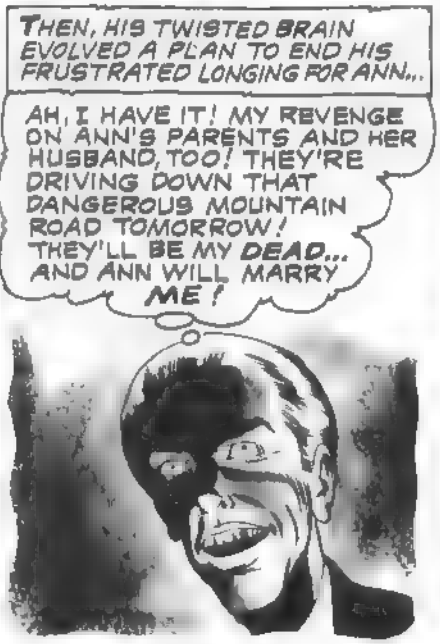
EBEN WRITHED UNDER THE MEMORY OF AN OLD CONVERSATION HE HEARD WHILE PASSING ANN'S HOUSE!
IMAGINE! THAT SCARE-CROW EBAN PROPOSED TO OUR ANN LAST NIGHT!
THAT UGLY, REPULSIVE GRAVEDIGGER? SHE REFUSED, OF COURSE!

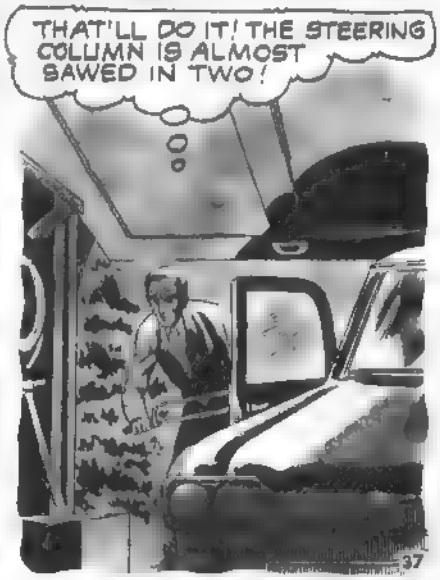

OF COURSE! MY, THAT YOUNG MAN FRIGHTENS ME! LOOKS LIKE A CADAVER!
THAT BOY'S A FOOL! THE WHOLE TOWN LAUGHS AT HIM! MARRY ANN, INDEED!

EBEN STILL CHAFED FROM THOSE BITING COMMENTS AS HE ENTERED THE HOUSE BESIDE THE CEMETERY...
FOOL, AM I? LAUGH AT ME? BUT I HAVE THE LAST LAUGH! THIS IS MY DOMAIN AND SOONER OR LATER THEY ALL COME TO ME!

HA! HA! HERE THEY ARE IN MY DEEP-FREEZE DEN! THE PARTS THAT LAUGHED AT OR HURT ME! HA! HA!


EBEN CACKLED FIENDISHLY AS HE WORKED OVER THE CORPSES...
HEH! HEH! GLENN ROBERTS! YOU ALWAYS KICKED AND TRIPPED ME--BUT YOU'LL GO TO THE GRAVE WITHOUT THOSE DEVILISH FEET!


THEN, HIS TWISTED BRAIN EVOLVED A PLAN TO END HIS FRUSTRATED LONGING FOR ANN...
AH, I HAVE IT! MY REVENGE ON ANN'S PARENTS AND HER HUSBAND, TOO! THEY'RE DRIVING DOWN THAT DANGEROUS MOUNTAIN ROAD TOMORROW! THEY'LL BE MY DEAD... AND ANN WILL MARRY ME!


THE DARK OF THAT NIGHT FOUND EBEN IN ANN'S GARAGE...
THAT'LL DO IT! THE STEERING COLUMN IS ALMOST SAWED IN TWO!

BUT THE NEXT DAY...
HOLD ON, JOHN! I WANT TO GO ALONG FOR THE RIDE!
FINE! CLIMB IN!

ON THE STEEP, HAIRPIN CURVES ON THE ROAD TO BOLTON...
SOMETHING BROKE! THE WHEEL IS LOOSE! THE CAR'S OUT OF CONTROL!

CRASH

A PASSING MOTORIST SUMMONED HELP...
SHE'S DEAD, TOO! TAKE HER AWAY!
FUNNY, THERE AIN'T ANY MARKS ON HER-- OH, WELL, I GUESS THE DOC KNOWS HIS BUSINESS!

LATER, EBEN RECIEVED THE PHONE CALL HE HAD BEEN EXPECTING...
A WRECK ON BOLTON ROAD! FOUR DEAD? FOUR? OH, YES... BRING THEM RIGHT IN!

EBIN WAITED IN GROWING HORROR UNTIL THE LIMP BURDENS ARRIVED...
OH, NO! NOT HER!
YEAH, IT'S ANN! TOO BAD! YOU WERE KINDA SWEET ON HER ONCE, WEREN'T YOU, EBEN?

FOR HOURS EBEN SAT MOTIONLESS BESIDE THE STILL VICTIMS OF HIS REVENGE...

AT LAST EBEN STIRRED AND STARTED TO TALK...
ANN! I DIDN'T MEAN TO KILL YOU! I ONLY WANTED TO GET RID OF YOUR HUSBAND AND PARENTS! BUT NOW YOU'RE DEAD...DEAD!

EBEN POURED OUT HIS SORDID TALE OF LOVE AND HATE! BUT THEN, ANN MOVED! THE INCOMPETENT DOCTOR HAD FAILED TO DETECT THE FAINT HEARTBEAT!
YOU NEVER LAUGHED AT ME LIKE THE OTHERS DID! I DIDN'T WANT TO HURT YOU! B-BUT NOW I'VE LOST YOU!

A WILD LIGHT FLICKERED IN EBEN'S GRIEF-STRICKEN EYES AS A SUDDEN THOUGHT CAME...
BUT, BUT YOU AREN'T LOST! YOU'RE MINE! ALL MINE! NO ONE WILL KNOW! NO ONE WILL BOTHER US!

HERE, DARLING! HERE'S YOUR NEW HOME! THIS IS YOUR LIVING ROOM! WE'LL HAVE GUESTS, BUT THEY WON'T INTERFERE WITH OUR LIVES! OUR VISITORS WILL BE SILENT... AS THE GRAVE!

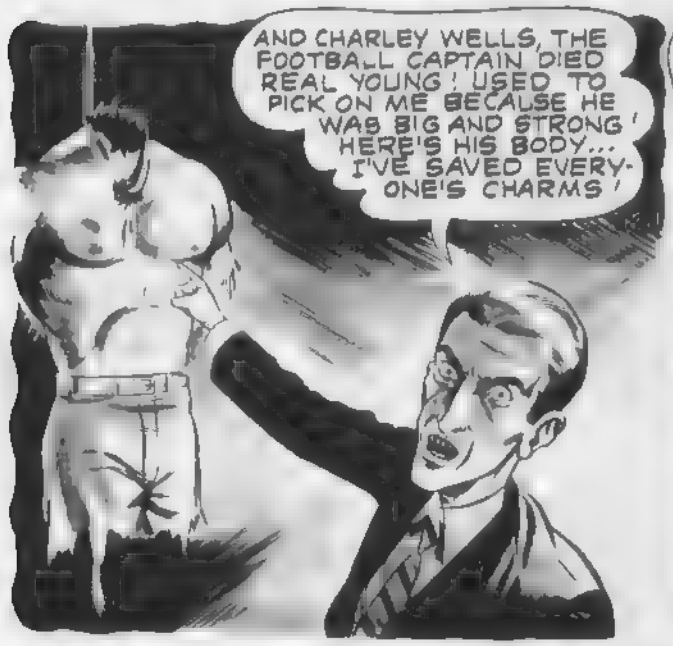
...AND HERE IS MY TROPHY ROOM! HERE ARE THE MEMENTOS OF MY ENEMIES! ANN! LOOK AT THEM! HERE IS WHERE EBEN THWAITE METES OUT JUSTICE TO HIS TORMENTORS!

A FAINT WHISPER SUDDENLY STARTLES EBEN...
EBEN! EBEN!
W-WHO IS IT? W-WHO SPEAKS?

...HE WHIRLED AND...
ANN!

EBEN STARED IN DISBELIEF AS ANN APPROACHED HIM...
WHY AM I HERE? OOH! WHAT ARE ALL THESE HORRIBLE THINGS! I-I CAN'T LOOK!
BUT YOU MUST LOOK, ANN! DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE YOUR OLD FRIENDS?

SOMETHING SNAPPED IN EBEN'S WARPED MIND... ALL HE FELT NOW WAS PRIDE IN HIS GRISLY ACCOMPLISHMENTS...
REMEMBER THAT OLD GOSSIP, MISS BISSEL? WELL, HERE'S HER WAGGING TONGUE... AND THIS IS THE MONEY GRABBING HAND OF THAT MISER MR. GRABBLE!


AND CHARLEY WELLS, THE FOOTBALL CAPTAIN DIED REAL YOUNG! USED TO PICK ON ME BECAUSE HE WAS BIG AND STRONG! HERE'S HIS BODY... I'VE SAVED EVERYONE'S CHARMS!

YOU'RE A FIENDISH GHOUL!
YOU--YOU CAN'T TALK TO ME LIKE THAT! YOU'RE DEAD! I KILLED YOU! THE CAR WRECK! I DID THAT! I SAWED THE STEERING POST IN HALF, BUT YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO DIE!!

YOU'RE A MURDERER, TOO! LET ME OUT OF HERE! I'LL TELL EVERYONE WHAT YOU ARE
YOU CAN'T GO! YOU'RE DEAD! YOU BELONG TO ME!

SHE WAS HIS AT LAST AND EBEN WAS DETERMINED NOT TO LOSE HER...
YOU'RE MINE NOW! YOU MUST STAY HERE WITH ME! NO! DON'T SCREAM!
HELP! HELP!

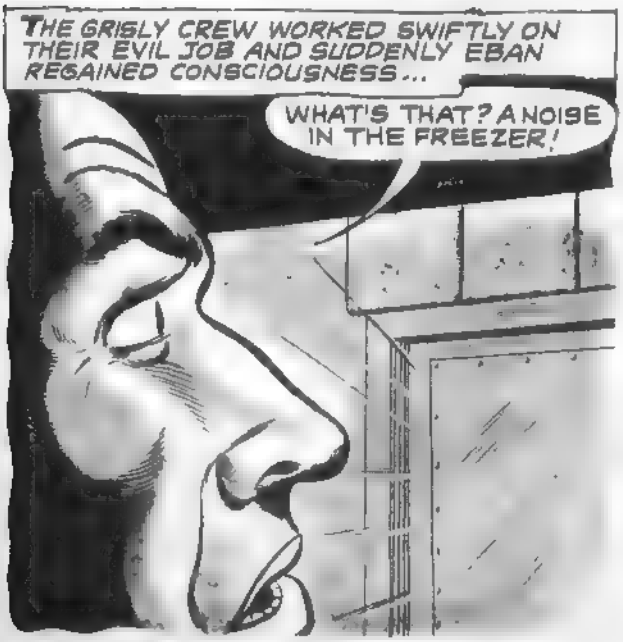
THE CHAIR ROSE AND FELL VIOLENTLY AS EBEN TRIED TO SILENCE HER SCREAMS!

AT LAST THE HOUSE OF DEATH WAS SILENT! EBEN SANK BY ANN'S BODY IN A STUPOR!
ANN! ANN! WHAT HAVE I DONE?

BUT EBEN COULD NOT HEAR THE FAINT WHISPER THAT RUSTLED THROUGHOUT THE ROOM AND OUT INTO THE GRAVEYARD BEYOND...
EBEN...DEFILED YOU! ARISE...AVENGE THE TERRIBLE DEEDS HE HAS DONE...HE VIOLATED YOUR DEAD BODIES... MURDER...

ANN'S WHISPER STIRRED THE DEAD IN THEIR COFFINS! FOUL ODORS OF DECAYED FLESH ROSE AS CORPSES PUSHED THEIR WAY OUT OF MAGGOT-FILLED GRAVES...
MY HANDS! MY HANDS!
REVENGE!
HURRY!

THE GHASTLY CROWD PASSED THE STUPIFIED EBEN TO SEEK THEIR MORTAL REMAINS IN THE FREEZER...
MY HEAD! WHERE IS MY HEAD?
HURRY!


THE GRISLY CREW WORKED SWIFTLY ON THEIR EVIL JOB AND SUDDENLY EBAN REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS...
WHAT'S THAT? A NOISE IN THE FREEZER!

AS EBEN SWUNG OPEN THE DOOR A PUTRID ODOR ENGULFED HIM! HE RECOILED IN HORROR AT THE MACABRE CREATURE THAT CONFRONTED HIM...

THE STENCH PERMEATED EVERY CORNER OF THE ROOM...
W-WHO... WHAT ARE YOU? THAT'S SAM DELL'S HEAD AND CHARLEY'S BODY!
A HORDE OF MONSTROUS CREATURES FOLLOWED IT, THEIR ROTTING FLESH HANGING FROM WHITENED BONES!
EBEN THWAITE! YOUR TIME HAS COME!
THAT'S OLD LADY BISSEL'S VOICE! YOU'VE GOT HER TONGUE! OH, NO... NO! NO! YOU'RE MADE UP FROM PARTS OF ALL THE BODIES!
IT WAS TOO LATE FOR EBEN TO ESCAPE...
YAAGH-H-H!
THE MUSCULAR BODY OF THE FOOTBALL STAR LIFTED EBEN'S FRAIL BODY AND...
NO! PLEASE!
FLUNG HIM AGAINST THE WALL!
AS DEATH CAME TO EBEN, THE GHASTLY THING SANK TO THE FLOOR IN A HEAP OF FETED, DECOMPOSED FLESH!
JUST BEFORE DAWN, THE EVIL-ODORED MOB OF CORPSES RETURNED TO THEIR CLAMMY GRAVES! THEY REGAINED AT LAST WHAT EBEN HAD TAKEN FROM THEM...
The End
42

THE RESTLESS, TORMENTED DEAD DO NOT LIE STILL BUT RAVE AND SCREAM IN DEATH'S GARDEN.. AND THERE'S A SECRET LOCKED IN THE MOULDY COFFINS THAT CAUSES DEAD MEN TO WALK AGAIN IN...

THE ZOMBIES VAULT

THIS MONEY IS TO BE USED FOR THE UPKEEP OF MY LATE FRIEND'S GRAVE.. OCCASIONAL FLOWERS... GOOD LORD!! IT...IT'S HIM!

WHAT'S THE MATTER DOCTOR? IS SOMETHING WRONG?

Reynoso

DUE TO A CERTAIN TOWN'S COMMERCIAL GROWTH IT BECAME NECESSARY TO MOVE A CEMETERY TO THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE TOWN! THIS UN-EARTHING OF THE DEAD WAS INTRUSTED TO TWO AGED GRAVE DIGGERS WHO WERE NEAR CORPSES THEMSELVES WHO MOVED FROM STONE TO STONE AFTER SUNSET...

IT'S BEST WE DIG AFTER DARK, FRIEND AMOS! SEEN' THE DEAD WOULD DISTURB MOST OF THE LIVIN'!

AY, JONATHAN! PRYING INTO THE PRIVACY OF THE HALLOWED DEAD IS NOT VERY PRETTY..

TIS AN EASY TASK THOUGH, AMOS. NO TROUBLE FINDING THESE PEOPLE AT HOME! HEH-HEH!

SOMETIMES THE COFFINS SINK A FOOT OR TWO! I'D HATE TO LOOK INSIDE A BOX!

AFTER EACH VISIT, MORE EMPTY GRAVES...

BLOW BUT SURE... THAT'S THE WAY TO BE WHEN YE DIG UP A CEMETERY!

LOOK THERE'S OLD DOC MATLOCK'S VAULT... BUSIEST MAN I EVER KNOWED. BET HE'S SITTING THERE RIGHT NOW DOING SOME OF HIS EXPERIMENTS! HEH! HEH!

THE DOOR OF THE FETED TOMB, UNAIRED, UNLIT FOR FORTY YEARS, IS IS FORCED OPEN, AND THE AIR, WITH A GUSH LIKE THE SIGH OF A LOST DEMON RUSHES IN...

J-JONATHAN!! L-LOOK! THE COFFIN, IT... IT'S EMPTY!

IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE DEVIL HIMSELF WHO CLAIMED THE FLESHLESS REMAINS...

THE DAMP BREEZE ECHOED AGAINST THE WALLS OF THE MAUSOLEUM AS THERE WAS HEARD THE RUSTLE OF..

PAPERS! A MESSAGE! THE WIND S BLOWING THEM!

I'M GETTING A STRANGE CHILL IN MY BONES... AND MY FLESH FEELS AS IF SPIDERS WERE CRAWLING ALL OVER IT!!

EEYAHH-H! IT'S-- IT'S MATLOCK! H-HE-- HE WAS TRYING TO GET OUT!!

OH GOD! HE MUST HAVE BEEN... I... I CAN'T THINK OF IT!

WHAT TALE OF HORROR HAD THE MAN WHO SOUGHT TO ESCAPE HIS TOMB TO TELL? THE HUNTERS OF CORPSES BENT OVER THE ANCIENT, YELLOWED PAGES... SLOWLY THEIR MINDS SPANNED FOUR DECADES...

Buried alive in this vault, with no hope of escape, my only ambition is to remain alive long enough to recount the tale of my last year of life and to give my account to the glorious and life-giving discovery of...

IT WORKS! WE HAVE SUCCESS! NOW SURGERY CAN BE PERFORMED WITHOUT FEAR OF SHOCK. WE HAVE GIVEN THE WORLD ITS FIRST SUCCESSFUL ANESTHETIC!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN WE? IT WAS MY DISCOVERY. YOU WERE MERELY MY ASSISTANT. I SHALL TAKE THE CREDIT!

NO! I SHALL SHARE THE HONORS! I HAVE SPENT TEN YEARS OF MY LIFE EXPERIMENTING AND DOING RESEARCH TO PROVE AND BRING TO LIFE AN IDEA YOU HAD! HOWEVER, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING NOW IS TO TEST THIS ON A HUMAN BEING!
YOU'RE RIGHT!
AND YOU SHALL BE THE GUINEA PIG! THEN WE WILL SEE WHO GETS THE ACCLAIM!
NOT WILLING TO EXPOSE AN OUTSIDER TO THE NEWLY DISCOVERED ANESTHETIC, THE DOCTORS CUT CARDS TO SEE WHICH OF THEM WILL BE THE FIRST HUMAN TO SUCCUMB TO THE DEATHLIKE POWERS OF THE MYSTERIOUS VAPORS...
I HAVE THE KING! CAN YOU TOP IT?
I'M AFRAID NOT! I WISH IT HAD BEEN ME!
HA! HA! THE CARDS WERE STACKED TO BE AGAINST YOU FROM THE BEGINNING, DR. RUSSELL!
IT WORKS ON HUMANS. PULSE AND RESPIRATION NORMAL! HE'S BEGINNING TO COME OUT OF IT... I--I'D BETTER GIVE HIM A LARGER AMOUNT!
WHAT THOUGHTS CRAWLED THROUGH THE EVIL MIND OF DR. MATLOCK?? THEY WERE MORE GHASTLY... MORE HORRID THAN EVEN THE WET RED LIPS OF A VAMPIRE!
... AND SO GENTLEMEN, I PRONOUNCE MY BELOVED COLLEAGUE, DR. RUSSELL, DEAD OF A RARE, UNKNOWN DISEASE... WHICH HE CONTRACTED WHILE WORKING WITH THESE ANIMALS! THE WORLD HAS LOST A GREAT SCIENTIST!
IMPATIENT TILL TILL THE EARTH SHOULD SEAL THOSE LIPS FOREVER, MATLOCK'S BREAST BEAT LIKE THE MUFFLED OARS OF THE FERRY TO THE INFERNAL REGIONS...
SOB... SOB... SOB!!
I HOPE I GAVE HIM ENOUGH OF THE STUFF. I WISH TO SATAN THEY'D HURRY! WHAT'S THAT? DID THE COFFIN MOVE? NO, IT'S JUST MY NERVES!
LATER, IN HIS STUDY...
WHY COULDN'T HE SEE IT MY WAY? CAN HE POSSIBLY GET OUT? NO! SO WHY WORRY? MY NAME ALONE SHALL BE THE GREATEST IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION, EH? WHAT WAS THAT?

AT THE SIGHT OF THE **ROTTED, FESTERED FACE** MATLOCK'S MIND FELL INTO THE PIT OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS, WHERE HE WAS VISITED BY THE WRITHING **FIENDS OF HELL** WHO CRIED..

A FEAR OF SLEEP MINGLED WITH THE **GHASTLY APPARITION** LEFT THE DOCTOR HALF CRAZY WITH DOUBT...

DRAWN BY A SUB-CONSCIOUS FORCE, DR. MATLOCK STARTED TO DIG FEVERISHLY...

THE EXERTION OF HIS DIGGING AND THE LACK OF SLEEP CAUSED MATLOCK TO DOZE FOR A FEW MOMENTS...

FATIGUED, EXHAUSTED, FEARFUL, MATLOCK'S BODY AND FEATURES BEGIN TO **TWIST** LIKE THE **GNARLED** FINGERS OF A **LEPROUS WITCH!**

NOW THE **GHASTLY VISAGE** OF RUSSELL HAUNTS HIM AT EVERY TURN... HE FEARS EVERY FOOTSTEP BEHIND HIM, AND HE CRINGES BEFORE EVERY HUMAN FORM AS A **SLIMY TOAD** BEFORE THE DRIPPING **FANGS** OF A VIPER...

LACK OF FOOD AND REST TOOK ITS TOLL AND LEFT HIM HAGGARD AND RESTLESS...

DESPERATE, HE ALLOWS THE **DROPS OF FORGETFULNESS** TO ENVELOPE HIS WEARY BRAIN... SLOWLY.. SLOWLY, THE **DARKNESS**, LIKE **DEATH** CLOSES IN..

WORRIED ABOUT THE DOCTOR, THE TOWN DIGNITARIES SEEK HIM OUT AND FIND...

SLOWLY, THE TOWNSMEN CARRY THE SLEEPING DR. MATLOCK TO HIS FINAL RESTING PLACE... AN ODOROUS, SOMBRE TOMB...

AFTER THE SHORT RITUAL, THE DOORS WERE SEALED **FOREVER!** THEN SOMETHING STILL **WARM** AND **HUMAN** STIRRED WITHIN THE **COLD** CASKET...

LITTLE BY LITTLE, THE SITUATION TOOK ON MEANING! GRADUALLY IT HIT HIM WITH THE IMPACT OF A POISONOUS FLUID RUNNING THRU HIS VEINS... AND WHEN THE PUTRID VENOM HIT HIS BRAIN..

MADLY, SAVAGELY, HE THROWS HIS WEIGHT UPON THE SOLID DOOR, UNTIL HIS BONES ARE ALL BUT **CRUSHED...**

THE WILL TO LIVE PERSISTS BUT THERE IS NO LONGER THE STRENGTH, WITHOUT FOOD AND WATER...

WHAT SUSTENANCE HE COULD FIND CAME FROM THE *OOZING* WALLS OF *DEATH* ITSELF!

SURROUNDED BY **DEATH**, THERE IS A FINAL RESIGNATION, THE CREEPING DOOM LIKE A COLONY OF CANNIBAL ANTS, COMES TO REMOVE THE OUTER LAYER OF FLESH... LEAVING ONLY BONES INSENSITIVE TO PAIN AND SHOCK...

Then THE HEART WHICH HAD BEEN FILLED WITH **HATE** AND **AMBITION** AND THEN GRIPPED WITH **FEAR**, FLUTTERED WEAKLY... THEN... **STOPPED**...

...AND **DEATH** BECAME A SAVAGE WHO CONSUMED ITS **VICTIMS**...

THE AMBER RAYS OF THE LANTERN REACHED OUT LIKE TENTACLES, DRAWING TOGETHER THE BRITTLE SCRAPS OF PAPER AND THE CRUMBLING HEAP OF BONES, WHICH ONCE ENACTED WHAT THE PAPERS DESCRIBE! THE GRAVE-DIGGERS RETURNED FROM THEIR INCREDIBLE VENTURE INTO THE PAST...

CONTINUED ON BACK COVER

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OOPS! HERE SHE BE! NOW IF...IF WE CAN PRY THIS RUSTY LID OPEN WE'LL SEE IF DOC RUSSELL IS...
YOU OPEN IT! -- I DON'T WANT TO LOOK IN...
IS HE THERE? HE-- HE DIDN'T GET...??
AY, HE'S HERE ALL RIGHT! HE'S NEVER BEEN OUT OF HERE!
THE POOR, OLD FOOL! HE DUG ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE STONE! NO WONDER HE FOUND NO ONE AT HOME!
DAVID RUSSELL
...AND WHEN HE DIDN'T FIND THE COFFIN, HIS CONSCIENCE MADE HIM THINK HE WAS SEEING THE AVENGING GHOST!
BUT MAYBE RUSSELL'S SPIRIT REALLY DID GET OUT...
NOW REST, YOU POOR TORMENTED SOUL! WHATEVER ILL YOU DID, YOUR DEBT SHOULD BE PAID BY NOW...
I'LL SAY "AMEN" TO THAT!
And SO THE MAN WHO WOULD RID THE WORLD OF PAIN AND SHOCK IS CARRIED OFF, A SACK OF CRUMBLING BONES! AND THE GLORIOUS DISCOVERY OF INDUCED SLUMBER ALLOWED HIM TO SLEEP FOREVER...
LET THE DEAD REST WITH THEIR DEEDS OF EVIL! WE MUST CARRY THIS STORY TO OUR GRAVES WITH US!
AY... THERE'S ENOUGH EVIL IN THE WORLD WITHOUT LETTING THIS STORY AND THE FORMULA LOOSE ON IT!
THE END